

Section 2. Adoption Benefit Program. (1) A state employee who finalizes a legal adoption procedure for the adoption of a child, other than the child of a spouse, on or after November 1, 1998, shall be eligible to receive reimbursement for actual costs associated with the adoption of a special needs child, as defined by KRS 199.555(1), or any other child.

(a) The eligible employee shall receive:

1. Up to \$5,000 in unreimbursed direct costs related to the adoption of a special needs child; or
2. Up to \$3,000 in unreimbursed direct costs related to the adoption of any other child.

b. Unreimbursed direct costs related to the adoption of a special needs child or other child shall include:

1. Licensed adoption agency fees;
2. Legal fees;
3. Medical costs;
4. Court costs; and

5. Other fees or costs associated with child adoption in accordance with state and federal law and after review and approval by the court at the finalization of the adoption.

(c) Application for financial assistance shall be made by submitting a completed State Employee Adoption Assistance Application to the Secretary of Personnel along with documentary evidence of:

1. Finalization of the adoption;
2. Certification by the Secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services that the adopted child is a special needs child, if reimbursement for special needs adoption is sought; and
3. A copy of an affidavit of expenses related to the adoption filed with and approved by the court at the finalization of the adoption.

d. If both adoptive parents are executive branch state employees, the application for financial assistance shall be made jointly and the amount of reimbursement shall be limited to that specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection.

(e) Upon approval of the application for financial assistance, the employee's agency shall dispense funds in the amount authorized by the Secretary of Personnel.